

## Leonard Steen, 78

Dec. 24, 1923 – Jan. 16, 2002

**ELK HORN** – Leonard Cameron Steen, son of Hans R. and Anna Katrine Hansen Steen, was born Dec. 24, 1923, on his parents' farm in Cameron Township, Audubon County. He attended Gray Community School graduating with the high school Class of 1941, where he was a member of the Gray Greyhound basketball team. He attended Commercial Extension School in Omaha, NE. He was employed as a clerk at Olsen Grocery Store and also helped operate his father's farm where he specialized in raising and showing purebred Shorthorn cattle. Feb. 19, 1944, he was inducted into the U.S. Army Air Corps. During his tour of duty he served with the 62<sup>nd</sup> Bombardment Squadron and was stationed in Guam and later in Northern France. He received the American Theater Ribbon, The Asiatic-Pacific Theater Ribbon; Good Conduct Medal; and a Victory Ribbon. He was honorably discharged March 3, 1946. He returned to the Audubon area and continued to help operate the family farm.

Feb. 14, 1947, he married Naomi Hansen at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Audubon. Five children were born to this union, David, Kathryn, Paul, Mark and Clark. He moved to Kimballton in December of 1946 and went into partnership with D.D. Randolph in an insurance and real estate business. In July of 1964, Leonard started Steen Realty and Insurance Company, which he operated until 1969. He then became vice-president of Landmands National Bank and brought his real estate and insurance business into the bank. Naomi died July 5, 1975.

April 11, 1976, he married Sharlot Madsen at the Immanuel Lutheran Church in Kimballton. Two daughters, Meredith and Monica, were born to this union and an adoptive son, Jason. Leonard continued working at Landmands and served as executive vice-president and was a bank director until January of 2001. He also clerked sales for Kimballton Auction and farm sales for many years. During his lifetime, he raised and showed Shorthorn cattle. Leonard was a member of the First Baptist Church in Elk Horn where he served as treasurer. He served as mayor of Kimballton, and also served as a city councilman. He was a school board member and president of the Elk Horn-Kimballton School Board. He was an original committee member, which formed the Kimballton Corn Husking Contest in which he participated. He was also a member of the Harry Albertsen Post #51 AMVETS in Kimballton. He died Jan. 16, 2002, at Salem Lutheran Nursing Home in Elk Horn.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Naomi; his parents; his brothers and sisters, Cameron, Arthur, Edward, Ethel and Esther. He is survived by his wife, Sharlot Steen of Elk Horn; his children, Meredith Steen and Monica Steen, both of Des Moines; David (Bev) Steen of Elk Horn; Kathy (Jim) Paulsen of Omaha, NE; Paul (Maggie) Steen of Mt. Pleasant; Mark (Cindy) Steen of Omaha, NE; Clark (Kathi) Steen of Elk Horn and Jason Steen of Kimballton; his grandchildren, Guthrie (Allison) Steen, Lindsey Steen, Erica Paulsen, Brooke Paulsen, Katie Steen, Kylie Steen, Karmyn Steen, Klayton Steen, Trevor Steen, Cody Steen, Kendal Steen, Jessica Steen, Witni Steen and Paige Hulne; his brother, Emmert (Neoma) Steen of Elk Horn; his brothers-in-law and sisters-in-law, Sonja (Mike) Thraen of Harlan; Stanley (Geraldine) Hansen of Harlan; nieces, nephews and other relatives.

Funeral services were held Jan. 19, 2002, at the Elk Horn Lutheran Church with Pastor Michael Williams and Celeste Waymire, AIM of the Elk Horn Lutheran Church and Pastor Michael Marcum of the First Baptist Church in Elk Horn officiating. Burial was in the Immanuel Lutheran Cemetery in Kimballton, with graveside military services by the Harry Albertsen Post No. 51 Amvets of Kimballton. Honorary casket bearers were Arno Christoffersen, Edward Hansen, Ross Kunze and Robert Madsen. Casket bearers were Guthrie Steen, Creed Lange, Mac Lange, Carlos Martinez, Adam Christensen, Mike Thraen, Rick Rogers, John Steen, Alan Steen and Dan Steen. Kessler Funeral Home in Audubon, in charge of arrangements.